



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

March 2009

Issue No. 456

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

NEXT RARS MEETING:

Tuesday, March 3 @ 7:30 PM. Location: 4400 Buffaloe Road in Raleigh.

North Carolina Hams Coordinate Governor's Inauguration Parade

**Article and Photos by Gary Pearce KN4AQ
ARRL NC Public Information Officer**

On one of the last days of 2008, Kelly Andrews KD4EWG got a call from some people he knows who were working on Governor-elect Bev Perdue's inauguration in Raleigh. "Could you get some of your ham buddies to help us out with logistics?" Uh, that would be in less than two weeks, on Saturday, January 10, with the New Year holiday about to happen. Kelly wasn't able to help, but he passed them on to Tom Brown N4TAB. Tom is Wake County ARES EC (and Central Branch AEC). And he wasn't so sure. Yes, the hams could do it, even on short notice. But did they want to? Hams had been called out for Governor Mike Easley's second inauguration four years earlier, and ended up not doing much. We'll do it, Tom replied, if you give us a real job.

We got four: handle seating for the inauguration; coordinate the staging for the parade (66 units, 2200 participants); relay the actual order of parade participants to the TV network broadcasting the parade so they could set up their graphics and scripts; and coordinate the buses that were to pick up the parade participants once they finished. And we wouldn't be just shadowing and communicating for the people doing these jobs – we'd be doing them ourselves.



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Time to recruit some volunteers. Tom put out the word on ARES mailing lists and Triangle area nets, and got help from Bill Cole, KG4CXY. Bill ran an independent public service group, Carolina Helping Hams (www.hampublicservice.org), and had his own list of volunteers. Between them, they filled the twenty slots they needed and had to turn a few others down.



Tom and Bill met with the Inauguration staff, but got only sketchy information about how things were planned. That's because, with little time to spare, planning hadn't progressed very far. They explained what they could do to the ham volunteers on two nets held on the Raleigh 148.88 repeater, but when the hams reported for duty early Saturday morning, they knew where to gather, what frequency to use, and not much else.

VIP seating for the inauguration was the first task. Tom dispatched Bill KG4CXY, Karl K4LNX and Charles WA3UTC to handle that. Virginia NC4VA went along

to shadow the parade coordinator. They found that 700 seats had been set up, but 2000 tickets had been sent out. Seating had been divided by group, but there were no maps. Somehow they handled it.

Then Bill, Karl and Charles went to see about the parking lot where the busses would wait to pick up the parade participants as they finished. I monitored the radio traffic on that, and it was trouble! The lot they were told to use had been taken over by the Capital Police. The next lot they were pointed to was filling up with cars from arriving spectators. They closed the lot and saved what space was left, and got ready to direct parade units to their busses. Tom warned that the first parade participants would likely stall and mill around as they exited the route, causing a backup into the active parade, so Karl and Charles would have to hustle them along. And that's what they did. They kept the parade marching and extra two blocks, right up to the busses. Bill left them to their task and became the parade marshal/traffic cop at the starting line.

The rest of the hams were helping at the parade staging area, and things were no better organized there. The plan was for the police department to cordon off several blocks at the south end of downtown Raleigh where the 65 parade units would wait to be lined up. As those groups arrived, the streets were still full of traffic, and the small volunteer parking lot where the parade units checked in was filling up fast. It would never hold the whole parade.

Fortunately, Tom and Bill had identified "Plan B" – two large parking lots adjacent to the check-in area – the day before. Those lots were privately owned, but they were still empty Saturday morning, so Tom sent Phil, AE4PC, John AI4RT and Dick KM4SX over to direct parade traffic

into them. Some of the other hams pointed the early arrivals out of the little volunteer lot and over to “Plan B.” Alanna K4AAC was the traffic cop at the check-in area. Her toughest task was convincing Girl Scout moms to park in a designated lot three blocks away when they wanted to park here.



So now we had two parking lots full of floats, high-school bands, military units, Girl Scouts, clowns and other groups, but they were not lined up in any particular order. Tom asked me to coordinate getting them out of the lots and up to the Wilmington Street starting line, and he gave me a list that showed what order they needed to be in. This was going to be interesting.

I got on the air and called for all available hams to just spread themselves out into the parking lots and adjacent streets. I would call for the parade units in order. The hams would look around, and whoever identified the units I called for would approach them and point them to the exit. KJ4BYN, KI4YXM, K4NGJ, WA2YBM, K4TIF, WD4KSE, KI4FUD and KI4PAE joined AE4PC, AI4RT and KM4SX in the staging area (John AI4RT described it as the cavalry arriving just in time as he was about to give up). The improvised system worked, though the hams had to unsnarl some traffic jams. Everyone was thinking on their feet and solving problems as they arose. It was working.

Almost. The first two units on my list were the Inter-Service Color Guard and the 2nd Division Marine Band from Camp Lejeune, and nobody could find either of them. Tom had a brilliant thought – they were probably participating in the Inauguration, which was going on a few blocks away. Virginia confirmed that, and they were soon on their way to the starting line.



The parade began on time, at 12:30. Wilmington Street was full from the staging area to the starting line, and about half the parade units were still in the parking lots. I was about to call out more units when our next two crises hit. First,

Governor Perdue hadn't arrived at the reviewing stand yet. Could we stop the parade, or at least slow it down? We didn't see how. Fortunately, she appeared before the parade had progressed very far.

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Second, there was a separate parade “insertion point” for the politicians and other VIP who would be riding in antique cars. Bob K4RLC was manning that spot, and he reported that the VIPs were arriving way out of order. There was no way to stick to the prepared script. Some of the other parade units were out-of-order, too, because they arrived late.



That scenario was covered. David KF4VXJ was positioned strategically near the start of the parade, and would relay the actual order of participants to Alanna K4AAC, who was now in the TV truck near the finish line. The problem was that with all the stray RF from the computers in the TV truck, Alanna couldn't hear David, or almost anyone else. As the panic level from the producers was rising, Virginia was moved to the truck, and Alanna stood outside, where she could hear David and relay his reports to Virginia.

But now my anxiety level was rising. Half the parade was still in the parking lot, but the TV-support hams were dominating our radio channel getting their problem solved and reporting parade progress, and I couldn't call for more units. Our truncated planning hadn't left time to identify a second frequency and make sure everyone had it programmed and ready for QSY in the event of channel congestion. We were doing everything on a single two-meter simplex frequency. Steve K4WEB was doing his best to keep things moving as Net Control, but I had to plead to get someone moved to another channel before the parade developed a big gap in the middle. David solved the problem by moving the TV crew to a nearby repeater. I was able to resume calling out the parade units, and the parade proceeded gap-free.

Another part of Tom's plan called for having several hams stationed along the active parade route to look for any trouble. That job went to the Freeze family, father Mark WD4KSE, and twins Clara KI4PAE and Sam KI4FUD. Sam saw a horse throw a shoe, which landed nails-up in the middle of the street, right in front of a marching band (earlier in the day, a band leader had complained about being behind horses, but this wasn't what he had in mind). Sam ran out and picked up the shoe. Meanwhile, Mark received a radio call that some VIPs arrived at the “insertion point” late, and we needed to have one of the antique cars circle back to pick them up. He ran the length of the parade route to catch up with the cars and redirect them. Clara's first public-service outing went a little more smoothly, but she said she enjoyed it.

Another ham stationed on the route, Liz KF4UQZ, discovered that a radio and orange vest made you a target for everyone with a problem – public, parade official, police. She barely got one question answered or problem solved before another one appeared. “That is what these events are good for, to test your ability to do that under extreme duress. We can all use a lot more of that,” she said.

Remember that parking lot that Tom commandeered? Our action didn't go unnoticed (it's hard to hide a couple thousand people, many of them blaring instruments and beating drums, in a lot that wasn't supposed to be used). A lot representative approached Phil AE4PC and asked when they'd get their lot back, as they had an event that evening. Phil explained that we'd be long gone by then, and all was well.

Our group of 20 included four women - Virginia, Alanna, Liz and Tiff. Virginia noted that that seemed appropriate, considering that the Inauguration was for the state's first female Governor. The parking lot emptied; the last officials were "inserted"; the TV broadcast identified almost everyone correctly; the Governor left a little early to join the crew of costumed sports mascots as they cavorted before the reviewing stand (with didn't please the some of the participants who didn't get her attention); and a police car brought up the rear of the parade. Bob, K4RLC, and David, KF4VXJ followed that car up the parade route, and Bob reported, "Some groups of parade watchers clapped loudly and laughingly said, 'Hooray for the guys with the radios.'"

The guys (and girls) with the radios were treated to a barbecue lunch before heading home. As far as anyone on Fayetteville Street or watching on TV knew, everything was flawless. They pulled it off.



Upcoming Public Service Events

March 7: Odyssey of the Mind. Need about 15 volunteers to provide shadowing and communication. This is a large participation event with many coordination challenges. An HT, spare batteries and earphone/headset will be needed.

April 4: MS Spring Fling. A one-day training event for bicycle riders that will be participating in the MS Ride in September. We will need hams for SAGS, rest stops and course monitors.

April 25: MS Triangle Walk. This large walk event benefits the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society and consists of a 1 mile, 3 mile and 5 mile walking course starting and finishing at the RBC Center in Raleigh. Need 15-20 ham volunteers for a variety of assignments.

May 1: Relay for Life. A Friday afternoon event held at the Panther Creek High School in Cary. 12-13 hams are needed as event shadows during event set-up and relay preparation.

June 6-7: AdA Tour de Cure. The overnight will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Southern Pines (the finish-line for those routes) and will feature a causal dinner with entertainment by the band Reactor.

To sign up or find out more information about these events, visit www.rars.org or www.hampublicservice.org.

RARS Officers

President:

Selene Montgomery
KG4RMT
919.577.1254
kg4rmt@earthlink.net

Vice-President:

Karl Bowman
W4CHX
919.669.6068
w4chx@arrl.net

Secretary:

Charles Swindell
WB4DCM
919.848.0410
wb4dcm@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
ke4pax@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles,

advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for the March *Exciter* is March 17. The submission deadline for the April *Exciter* is April 15.

All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
editor@rars.org

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at McCall's BBQ & Seafood Restaurant in Clayton, NC, 10365 US 70 Hwy West. 919.550.3877. This is our eastern most meeting location for the year so join us, All MEMBERS and GUESTS are welcome. More information about the Quarter Century Wireless Association can be found by going to the www.rars.org website and click on the QCWA ion on the right side.

When: The Board will meet at 11:00 AM. Meet and Greet will be at 11:30 AM and lunch will be at 12:00 Noon. The program will follow lunch.

Directions: From the west on I-40 get off at Exit 306 and merge onto highway 70W and go about 7.3 miles east on Rt70. The restaurant is .1 miles past Advance Auto. Both are on the right side of the road. After the meeting, those going back West should exit through the restaurant rear parking lot to access a road that will put you at a traffic light at Hwy 70 to turn left and return west.

Program: Mac MacAulay, WQ8U, of Hillsborough, NC will give a program on wartime IED's and radio controlled mechanisms that control them and the electronic countermeasures that are being used to defeat them.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

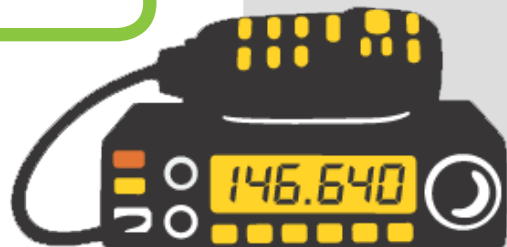
145.13 (82.5 PL), 146.64, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to checkin. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.



Welcome to RARS!

Bob Hartley, Sr. K2QJ & Dan Hogan AC8DH

January 2009 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 359	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 25/21	Checkins: 91
Minutes: 551	Minutes: 495
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 13

Upcoming Hamfests

March 14-15	Charlotte Hamfest Charlotte, NC http://www.w4bfb.org/
March 21	Charleston Area Hamfest Charleston, WV http://www.w8gk.org/
March 28-29	Greater Baltimore Hamboree Timonium, MD http://www.baltarc.com/

March RARS Meeting

The March program will be the RARS annual birthday party and awards night. We will also have a presentation on "Towers: Tall Tales & Lofty Advice" by Charles Durst NC4CD.

March Birthdays

Tim	KD4MBC	03/01
Sharon	KD4ACK	03/06
Karl	W4CHX	03/06
Noble	N4UOQ	03/06
Bruce	WA9NEW	03/08
Rich	KR4AS	03/08
Steve	KA9MVA	03/09
Jim	WA5APR	03/10
Bob	KC4CPD	03/10
Tom	N4TAB	03/10
David	KF4VXJ	03/12
Bob	WA4ZZN	03/12
Larry	K4LXV	03/17
Eddie	WK4I	03/18
Bill	K4WGE	03/20
Chuk	KB4MDZ	03/21
Bill	AF4JG	03/22
Carl	W4HJZ	03/23
Greg	KE4PAX	03/23
Jacob	KJ4AWR	03/28
BJ	NC4BJ	03/29

Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting on November 18, 2009

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC. The following members were present: Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Chuck K4HF, Ken KI4OTO, John AI4RT, Gary KN4AQ, Steve KJ4BX, Rick KB4TKQ, and Charlie WB4DCM.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:07 PM. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer was not present but had sent in a report: we now have 244 paid members; there has not been a financial review yet; IRS forms have been submitted; membership dues to SERA have not been paid and a datasheet has been requested; and the Dick Bitner Fund has some funds remaining and Liz White has been requested to provide reimbursement info.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee was not present but it was indicated that there would be a General Class presented in February. The time and place to be determined. Ken KI4OTO commented that JARS was doing classes over the air.

Exciter needs volunteers to print out copies to be sent to those members without email. Currently there are 7 members that receive printed copies. Dave W4YDY has suggested some possible layout changes to RARS Exciter.

Webmaster Hank K4HM passed out copies of the new home page for RARS. Current events and other information will be in the center of the page in a text format. Down the left side of the page will be buttons for specific areas. There was discussion about the possibility of putting request for contributions to the Dick Bitner Fund on the web page. A request was made to put a button on the left side for a "swap-shop" to allow members to advertise stuff for sale.

First Alliance Church Chairmen Steve KJ4BX advised that he had meet with the church and has obtained approval for RARS to use their facilities for our meetings. No formal rental agreement or deposit is going to be required. A motion by Rick KB4TKQ was made and seconded to move our meeting from Forest Hills Baptist Church to First Alliance Church. Therein followed extensive discussion about the move including but not limited to notification to FHBC, rent donations to First Alliance, advising members of the change, set up and clean up, and VE space. Following the discussion there was a unanimous vote to move our meetings to First Alliance Church effective January 1, 2009.

Officer Reports:

Retiring VP Rick KB4TKQ advised that the JARSVE test had a 100% pass at its last exam. Gift cards have been procured as door prizes for the Christmas party. The January program has been set. The program will be on the "Soft Rock 40" kit.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT advised that he had about 10 volunteers for the City of Oaks marathon.

Ham Fest Chairs Hank K4HM & John AI4RT advised that John will be the chair for the 2009 RARSFest. The Repeater Journal has the RARSFest listed but with the wrong date. They will be advised.

Public Information Chair Gary KN4AQ stated that 2 TV stations covered the ARISS event. Jeff AC4ZO, Dick KD4ISC, Gary KN4AQ, Jack N6OYB, and George WA4EKJ worked on the project and did an excellent job.

FM Repeater Chair Gary KN4AQ stated that by using the tracker units at the marathon that they have generated interest in their use. The units will be loaned to interested club members to enable them to learn their use.

Old Business:

- Our November supper was held at Perkins. There were issues but the manager of the restaurant has assured us that those issues have been resolved. We will have our December supper there and decide at that time where to go in January.
- The amplifier was used at our last club meeting and was very helpful. Therein followed some discussion about putting the program on our web page or feeding it directly to a repeater for live transmission. No definitive decision was made about those last issues.

New Business:

- Motion was made, seconded, and approved not to have a December Board of Directors meeting.
- It was indicated that Mike WA4BPJ chair of Field Day did not want to make a change in location. Other potential sites were briefly discussed but no action taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh. The following were present: Selene KG4RMT, Rod KI4LSN, Ken KI4OTO, Hank K4HM, Chuck K4HF, John AI4RT, Karl W4CHX, and Charlie WB4DCM.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:05 PM. Typographical errors in the November 18, 2008 Board minutes were noted by the Secretary and will be corrected. Treasurer Greg KE4PAX was not present but had emailed his report. We have 255 members.

President Selene announced that there will be a general class beginning on February 7th and will be located at the First Alliance Church. The Exciter will be going out in a few days. There will be a VE test session at the February 3 meeting.

Webmaster Hank K4HM advised that he was doing updates and working on the system. He hopes to have a "swap shop" available shortly. It was commented that he was doing a great job.

President Selene stated that she had received a call from Steve KJ4BX indicating that the area of the church where we normally meet was undergoing renovation and would not be available for February meeting. We hope the renovations on the sanctuary will be finished in time for the March meeting. Rather than try and locate another meeting place on short notice, President Selene agreed that we would meet in another area of the church. That will require a little more set up and we will have to put up signs directing the membership at the night of the meeting. The Board agreed, upon motion by Chuck K4HF and seconded by Ken KI4OTO, to pay \$50 per night for use of the facilities and an extra \$25 for the class room on the nights that we give VE exams.

VP Karl stated that refreshments are running about \$50 per meeting and that he is learning what items the membership likes. For the March meeting, Chuck Durst NC4CD will present "Tall Tales and Lofty Advice" a program about towers. The April meeting will be on the RARSFest and also a program. June will be on Field Day with Mike WA4BPJ. Therein followed discussions about other possible program subjects such as grounding, QSL'ing, Skywarn, ARES, ARISS, DTV, Samuel Morse and HT's.

Committee Reports:

- Public Service John AI4RT announced that the MS Spring Fling training ride will be held in Raleigh on Saturday, April 4th.
- Hamfest Chair John AI4RT indicated that they held the first organizational meeting of 2009

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on January 26th. Planning is well under way, tickets and table orders are coming in, and some key positions still need filing. He still needs help with Contests, Setup, and Youth Lounge. Check with John AI4RT with any questions or to volunteer. Rod KI4LSN brought up the issue of helping with the Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge at the hamfest. Issues such as the space within the hamfest to hold it, who would do presentations, who would be responsible, and how many Scouts we are talking about was discussed.

- ARRL Liaison Chuck K4HF advised no report but did want to insure that everyone was receiving the online weekly ARRL News Letter via Email.
- ARRL is going to have a training session for PIO's. It was commented that we should support Gary KN4AQ if he chooses to participate.
- There were no reports from the FM Repeaters, RARS Trackers, or W4DW Trustee.

There were no comments from the At Large Directors.

Old Business:

- President Selene sent a letter on November 24, 2008 to the Forest Hills Baptist Church thanking them for allowing us to use the facilities.
- The RARS dinner has moved back to the Golden Coral on Glenwood Ave. Those persons who attend the supper preferred it.

New Business:

- President Selene brought up the issue of starting time for the Board meetings. While meeting at Forest Hills Baptist Church, we changed our Board meeting start time from 7:30PM to 7:00 PM to ensure we could finish up before our deadline to be out of the building. We no longer have a time issue at Triangle Radio Reading Service. At the February Board meeting, we will discuss whether to change the start time back to 7:30 PM or leave it at 7:00 PM. Board members who are still gainfully employed may desire the 30 minute delay in starting: traffic is lighter the later it is, and it would lend a sense of unity in start times between membership, board, and hamfest meetings. On the other side, the later start time would mean a later ending time as well. The consensus of those present was that even if a later start would help a minimum number of board members in being able to attend, it was worth changing in order to get more participation at the Board meetings.
- Chuck K4HF accepted Chair of the Awards Committee. Ken KI4OTO and John AI4RT will be members of the committee. The Awards Committee will recommend people for awards that have contributed to RARS or to ham radio. There are no specific areas for the awards. Chuck has asked for input regarding those who deserve recognition at the March RARS Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at the First Alliance Church, Raleigh, N.C. In spite of the threat of snow, we had 48 members and guests present.

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. Our treasurer was not present, but his report indicated that we now have 255 members.

The following announcements were made:

- Our RARS supper will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at the Golden Coral on Glenwood Ave. Members and guests are welcome.
- The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17th at the Triangle Radio Reading Service. All members are invited.
- The JARS auction will be held on February 19th.
- The Frost Fest in Richmond will be on February 7th.
- The Charleston Ham Fest is February 7th.
- The Orlando Ham Fest is February 14th & 15th.
- And, of course, the RARSFest will be Saturday, April 11th.

Committee reports:

- Education Chair Virginia NC4VA announced that the General Class License Preparation Class will be taught on February 7th, 14th, and 28th. The cost is \$25 which includes the study manual. The exam is \$14.
- Skywarn Chair Virginia NC4VA advised that Skywarn would be activated at 5:00 AM on Wednesday, February 4th and remain active as required by the Weather Bureau.
- Public Service Chair John AI4RT will need help for the Odyssey of the Mind in Chapel Hill March 7th; MS Fling training session for bike riders in Durham on April 4th; and the Relay for Life on May 1st.
- Hamfest Chair John AI4RT indicated that he needs chair persons for Contests, Set-up, and Youth Lounge. A sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers for all aspects of the hamfest. Advance tickets are now available. The RARSFest will be on Saturday, April 11th.
- VP Karl W4CHX advised that the program for March will be Charles Durst, NC4CD. The program will be on towers. Refreshments are costing RARS about \$45 per month. Contributions are appreciated.

Our visitor, Mary Powell was recognized.

Gary KN4AQ announced that the implementation of DTV would probably be delayed until sometime in June. In fact, UNC-TV has cancelled its request to have amateur radio operators man a phone bank to answer questions about DTV.

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Jeff AC4ZO then took the podium and briefly discussed ARISS and did an introduction for a video done by ARVN (do we have a PIO or what?). The video was a very professional presentation of the amateur link with the ISS on November 14, 2008. Schools in Maryland, Raleigh, and Ecuador were linked by a phone bridge to an amateur radio operator in Hawaii. The amateur station in Hawaii then provided a radio link with the ISS. The students in the three schools then asked questions of the ISS. For example, "Does your food get mold in space?"

After the video and while Jack N6UYB was setting up the PA system for the program, President Selene announced that anyone wishing to go to supper tonight, to hang around after the meeting. The drawing for door prizes was held. Joe N1LVN won a 6-DVD set of the Digital Conference held in Chicago; Steve KJ4BX and Eddie WK4I won manuals.

VP Karl W4CHX introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Tim Slay N4IB. Tim is the North Carolina Section Manager for ARRL. Tim made a few general comments about ARRL: Head Quarter does not have much money and operates on a shoe string; the offices are austere; the staff is very devoted to amateur radio; there are 120 paid staff members; and our membership has increased about 6300 since the no code licenses.

Tim then discussed the organizational structure of ARRL. ARRL has five functions that they perform: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership. Public Service would include ARES, NTS and Emergency Preparedness & Response. Advocacy is lobbying such entities as the FCC and Congress. Their budget is about \$800,000 a year. Spectrum Defense and the fight over BPL come under this heading. Education publishes 160 books, videos, and CD's. In addition, there are 10 online classes and a new PIO class.

Next Tim got into what is going on in the North Carolina Section. NC is the 10th largest state in amateur radio population. However, we are about 4th largest in activity. We have about 3900 ARRL members; 1800 in ARES; and 55 affiliated clubs. N.C. was active in getting a PRB-I type law (HI340) passed.

We have got to grow our hobby. There have been 25,000 new licenses since the no code in 2007. However, we need to recruit young people. The ARRL has scholarships available and we need to promote them. The Diamond Club is a fund raising program.

Tim was an excellent speaker and we thank him for taking time to visit our meeting.

President Selene announced that the next meeting would be March 3rd. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Article by Cliff Broughton W4FT

At the February meeting, NC Section Manager Tim Slay referred to the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society as the “flagship club in North Carolina” and as the largest club in the state. About a week later, the ARRL website reported the admission of two new member societies to the IARU.¹ One is the Emirates Amateur Radio Society (EARS) with 72 licensed amateurs in the country of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The other is the Kazakhstan Federation of Radio-sports and Radioamateur (KFRR) with 617 licensed amateurs in the Republic of Kazakhstan. As of January, RARS has 247 current members. That makes RARS a very large organization compared to other clubs, but what about compared to other countries?

Unfortunately, there are no current consolidated statistics. If someone is interested, they could scour every IARU member society webpage for the data, but that was more than I wanted to do this week. However, back in 2000, the IARU compiled the list.² Dave Sumner K1ZZ tells me that an update should be out soon. Here are some interesting statistics.

# of Licensed Amateurs	# of Countries	# of Licensed Amateurs	# of Countries
Less than 10	20	1000 to 5000	20
0 to 99	98	5001 to 10,000	14
100 to 199	22	10K to 20K	9
200 to 499	11	20K to 80K	9
500 to 999	10	Over 80K	4

Country	Licensed Amateurs
Republic of Korea	141,000
Thailand	141,241
USA	679,864
Japan	1,296,059

TOTAL Worldwide	2,976,712
RARS	247

My guess is that the numbers for most countries haven't changed very much in the last decade. There are probably some other countries that have been added but were not on the year 2000 list. But, using 2000 statistics, RARS has more members than 113 different countries (including the two new ones noted above) and more than the 33 smallest IARU member society countries combined! Think about it. Twenty countries with less than 10 members! No wonder it can be so hard to get every DXCC entry!

¹IARU Member-Societies Ratify New Officers, Vote to Admit New Members <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/11/10645/?nc=1>.

²STATUS SUMMARY OF RADIO AMATEURS & AMATEUR STATIONS OF THE WORLD 2000 <http://www.iau.org/statsum00.html>.



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.



March 3: "Hail and Wind" with NWS General Forecaster Brandon Dunstan.

March 17: National Flood Safety Awareness Week. Topic TBA with guest NWS Hydrologist Mike Moneypenny.



Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening at 9:00 pm on the 146.64 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.



The **Wake County ARES** net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS

~~Exciter~~

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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Now that's what I call a mobile station!